

## The Long and Winding Road...

The Spring equinox has passed and before you spend all your time in the garden, the Coalition would like to up-date you on the proposed James Dick Rockfort Quarry in Caledon. We would love tidy solutions and easy answers for this issue, but where multiple interests are concerned, life in the "planning" world never seems to be that simple. Such is the case surrounding the Rockfort Quarry proposal. For those of you who have just moved into the neighbourhood, a quick timeline may be helpful:

### 1996

- James Dick acquires Rockfort Farm at Winston Churchill and Olde Baseline
- Town of Caledon begins Community Resource Study (CCRS)

### 1997

- James Dick informs community he intends to mine dolostone at the site.
- Coalition of Concerned Citizens is incorporated and meetings begin.
- OMB re: Peel Region's Official Plan and the mineral aggregates. CCC participates.

### 1998

- James Dick submits application for the dolostone quarry.
- OMB directs Town of Caledon to continue CCRS study until completed.
- CCC works with the community and all levels of governments raising awareness.

### 1999-2001

- Extensive Peer Reviews undertaken on application submitted.
- CCRS continues. James Dick agrees to stall going to the OMB until the study is finished

### 2002-2003

- CCRS completed and appealed to OMB. Oak Ridges moratorium stalls process.
- CCC participates in settlement talks to encourage good land-use planning in Caledon.
- Caledon OPA 161 re: aggregate issues is settled and approved by OMB.

### Fall 2003

- CCC prepares for big OMB hearing on Rockfort scheduled for January 2004.
- The Town of Caledon, The Region and the Coalition put forward a motion at the OMB pre-hearing that it was in the better public interest, that James Dick should have his application heard under the new tougher 2003 Planning requirements. **In a precedent setting decision, the Board found in our favour, that James Dick must now do many further studies to address the new standards. This is a tremendous step forward.**
- Election of the Provincial Liberals.
- December 2003, the Province announces the creation of a GTA Greenbelt study area that freezes zoning changes and includes the Town of Caledon. This study effectively puts the Rockfort OMB process in limbo for the time being and may delay the whole matter until 12 months from now. Stay tuned. The long and winding road has taken a few more turns.

The purpose of this update is to make one and all aware of the significant amount of time and money that will be expended over the next eighteen months. (If the OMB hearing does begin in April 2005 the earliest that it will finish is August 2005). More than ever, we need the continued support from the community. We have waged a very responsible and professional battle in the past seven years and we will not be swayed from continuing to have our voices heard. Our goal is to ensure that our water, environment and community are protected from the threats of unsound development.

## GROWING ALLIANCES

The Coalition shares with many other groups in the Province, a concern for water protection and good land use planning. In the last six months we have allied ourselves with two other large environmental groups who are focused on these issues.

### The Credit River Alliance:

This is an alliance of over 30 environmental and community groups, representing over 10,000 supporters sharing a common concern for the health of the Credit River Watershed. The formation of this alliance is particularly relevant at this time as the Ontario Ministry of the Environment has recently released a White Paper that sets out for discussion a framework for water source protection. Caledon provides a large amount of the critical re-charge areas of the Credit River watershed so we have an active concern with this issue.

### The Ontario Greenbelt Alliance:

The Ontario Greenbelt Alliance is a multi-

stakeholder coalition of groups who share a common vision for environmental protection within the Greenbelt Study Area. The Greenbelt Plan is recent Provincial legislation that is examining urban sprawl in the GTA area with an eye to ensuring long-term protection of our natural heritage systems, water resources, and agriculture.

The Coalition supports these alliances but it does not alter their focus on the Rockfort issue. From the very beginning one of our strongest arguments against the proposed quarry has been water protection. Both of the above mentioned alliances have water protection as a priority.

Change is in the air as more and more Ontarians are concerned with unsound development. We can no longer accept a business as usual attitude if we wish to maintain our countryside and quality of life here in the Caledon.

## THE COALITION OF CONCERNED CITIZENS AND THEATRE ORANGEVILLE PRESENTS: "THE BELLS OF LARKSPUR"

*Come one, come all, to another brilliant sequel in the "Wingfield Farm" series by the ever popular Dan Needles. His latest fun comedy is appropriate to our times as it deals with a large international developer intent on rearranging the small town of Larkspur. We even have a ghost.*

*The Bells of Larkspur will appeal to EVERYONE and is a wonderful opportunity to meet friends and neighbours within the community. Be sure to get your tickets now. All proceeds go to the Coalition for Concerned Citizens.*

**Date:** April 18, 2004

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Place:** Theatre Orangeville 87 Broadway, Orangeville

**Cost:** \$50.00 per person with all proceeds to the Coalition

**For more information contact Edward Long:**

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